# SAMANA.

The Key to the Gulf of

Its Acquisition by the United States Government.

First American Territory in the Antilles.

What the English and French Think Of It.

Report of General Babcock, One of Our Commissioners, to President Grant.

The Republic of Dominica—Its History Up to the Present Day-Description of the People-Manners, Customs, Religion, Productions of the Island, Resources, Soil and Climate.

General Babcock's Arrival in the Capital-His Interview With the President-Our New Naval Station in the West Indies-Admiral Porter Before the Congressional Committee on Commerce—The AdmiraPs Views and WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1869.

General Babcock, Commissioner to St. Domingo a the business of negotiating a lease or permanent equisition of the Bay of Samana by the United States, arrived in this city this morning. Generals ingalis and Sackett, who accompanied General ock, remained in New York. The accounts as already published in the Herald, of the details of the doings of the commission are essentially correct and will not need repetition. It has not, however, been mentioned that during General Babcock's presence at the Domimican capital a party steamed up the Victorian branch of the Ozama a distance of fifteen miles, observing the beautiful scenery and forests of ma alogany and logwood. At the capital the Commis with every courtesy during the then pending nego Marine, was quite ill and took little part in the busi entered into were to-day communicated to the President by General Babcock. There are two propositions, it is understood, each of which embrace the magnificent Bay of Samana. Upon these the President is now deliberating. It is be laid before Congress until January. The \$150,000 employed was out of the fund of \$200,000 appropriated to be used in accomplishing the same object by Mr. Seward. As stated in the Herald's deatches the American flag was unfurled in the pre-nce of General Babcock, and this first step to the on of the bay being over the Albany sailed on her return voyage. Before any further steps than the presence of the Nantucket in the bay are taken the President will ask Conrders will be despatched immediately to the Guli equadron to rendezvous at Samana. A large quan don while the coal vein on the peninsula is being opened, in order to be made available. Storehouse rill be erected and plans drawn up looking to the proposed fortification and security of the place. Earthworths, mounting heavy guns, are also talked

erviceable means of defence considered.

After the contract is fully ratified by Congress it will be but a few months before the United States will be able to boast of a creditable naval station in the West Indies. It is also probable that several battations of native, acclimated troops will be re-

distribution of the money paid down is pronounced entirely false, and is supposed to have been written by some one hostile to this step on the part of the United States. It is known that a number of the leading members of both houses of Congress are inmtion of the Bay of Samana, and it is not antici-

Admiral Porter was before the House Committee on ommerce to-day in relation to a more liberal legislative policy towards the extension of American commercial enterprise. The committee were much interested in the information communicated by the Admirai. He urged the granting of liberal expended per annum, though it would be a less of than \$20,000,000 a year to the country. In regard to the mails the Admiral said that he thought they could be carried cheaper as now arranged. The committee were considerably alarmed when informed that the present steam vessels running into New York in event of war would form, if armed, a formidable naval power against us, and he sug gested that some timely action should be taken in order to prevent any contingency that might lead to these vessels, now engaged in the peaceful pursuits of commerce, being used against us. The committee seemed to be alive to this new feature in our nation to adopt a more liberal policy. There is now a better prospect than ever of having our merchant marine put on a better footing.

## THE KEY TO THE CHLF OF MEXICO.

The Dominican Republic-People-Government-Climate-Soil-Productions-Natural Resources-Samana Bay-Its Advantages as a Naval Station-Magnificent Harbor-Negotiations for Its Lease-Formal Possession Taken by the United States.

After many years of patient expectation the desire

of the American people has at length been satisfied, and the Stars and Stripes now wave over American For a long time the necessity of a foothold in the Antilles was deemed necessary. The growing importance of the Unted States, commercially and politically, its territorial growth and its increasing population are all arguments in favor of the posses of American territory in that quarter. As early as the year 1846 Lieutenant (now Vice Admira) Dominica. This was under the administration of President Polk; but it is well known that the subject of territorial acquisition had been for a long time previous a prominent consideration in the minds of many American statesmen. The lieu-tenant, under the direction of Mr. Bancroft, then Secretary of the Navy, made an extended tour of the island and obtained a vast fund of information regarding the political condition, manners of the people and resources of the country. The picture which he drew of the island was most flattering and went to prove that in the nands of an energetic and enterprising nation like the United States the great natural resources of the country could be developed

Later, in the year 1854, General (then captain) George B. McCiellan made a survey of the island under directions from the administration then in power in Washington. The explorations were conducted with considerable secrecy and consequently attracted little attention at the time. The object of Capteto McClellan's visit was for the purpose of

## OUR FOOTHOLD IN THE ANTILLES.

Map Showing the Position of the Bay of Samana, St. Domingo.



selecting a convenient haroor and a suitable naval station for the United States naval vessels cruising

Babcock, Ingals and Sackett, visited the "and. Specof their visit to Dominica. Various views were entertained on the subject. The arrival in this port on Sunday last of the United States steamer Albany, with the three commissioners on board, direct from the island of St. Domingo and President Bacz, set the matter at rest, and we were enabled to place before our readers not only the particulars of the visit, but to make the announcement that the Bay of Samana had become American territory and that the American flag waved over our first foothold in the Antilles. From States flag in Dominica and having taken formal possession of the Bay of Samana, a sketch of the Dominican republic will prove of much interest at the present time.

THE REPUBLIC OF ST. DOWINGO

minican republic, the eastern portion of the is and of Hayti, comprises nearly three-fifths of the island. Its name is derived from the ancient Spanish appellation of the island-San Domingo. Its tion is about 150,000, of whom one-tenth claim to be whites; the rest are of African descent, or of mixed African and European. The Dominican republic was the first American State which made the absowas the first American State which made the absolute equality of all races before the law a fundamental portion of its constitutional existence—a noteworthy fact. The boundary between it and the Haytien republic is an irregular line drawn from the mouth of the river Massacre, on the north coast of the island, to the river Ansesa-Pitre, or Pedernales, on the south coast. The interior of the republic consists of mountain ranges, rising to an elevation of 0,000 to 8,000 feet, and covered with magnificent troules forests. From the ered with magnificent tropical forests. From the base of these mountains large plains, watered by nuplains the Vega Real (Royal plain) and those of the Jayua, the Azua and the Neybe, are the most densely populated. Among the rivers, most of which bear the character of mountain tor-

Jayua, the Azua and the Neybe, are the most densely populated. Among the rivers, most of which bear the character of mountain torrents, the Great Yaqui, emptying into the Bay of Monte Christo; the Yuma, whose embouchure is in the Bay of Samana; the Higuey, the Gaboon, Soco, Socaris, Brujuelas, Ozoma, Jayna, Nisao, Bant and Neybo deserve to be mentioned. The harbor of St. Domingo city is one of the best; next to it the Bay of Samana offers an excellent roudstead. Of the lesser islands on the coast belonging to the republic Beats and Saona are the most considerable. The climate, though tropical, is less must be sufficiently fertile, but the industry of the inhabitants is not equal to the immense resources of the country. Gold, silver and iron abound in the mountains, but no mines are worked. Cattle raising in the level country and ebony cutting in the mountainous regions are the principal occupations of the people, agriculture being mainly confined to the raising of the manioc root, which is used as a substitute for grain.

TWENTY-THERE YEARS AGO.

Lieutenant Porter, writing from Port au Prince in the year 1846, gives the following account of his travels through the country and his intercourse with the people:—

In many of the provipces through which I have passed the country may be said to be almost in the same state as it was when Columbus first discovered the Island, and in these places the population cannot be said to be much superior in intellect to the unpolished indians who were the first possessors of the soil, although they have many of the same traits of character by which those unhappy people were distinguished and that are so much to be admired. The remembrance of some places through which I have travelled appears to me like a beautiful dream, and no one who has not seen can form the slightest idea of what nature can be, arrayed in all her beauty of hills and dales, rocks and waterfails and mountains plied up one upon another in such beautiful and fantastic shapes that the minist completely be wildere

pursuit of the wealth which the indians alone despised.

SPANISH TYRANNY.

I have travelled over most of the ground where these poor wreteness were forced to toil and carry loads upon their heads, through roads which the imagination cannet form an idea of, and it is wonderful, with the riches of the soil staring them in the lace, that the Spaniard could have been led away by such illusory projects; but as the Hidaigo of ancient times was so is the Spaniard of the present day. He will talk to you of the gold, silver and copper mines, toil with you to the top, of the steepest hill, and bring down heavy loads of what may eventually prove to be nothing but common earth; but for a hoe or a picugh they have an aversion not to be described, and the natives who do not live in cities pass away their time sleeping under the shady branches of their magnificent trees or at the foot of some of the beautiful waterfalls by which hature is adorned (but which do not add to the comfort of traveiling), as the roads frequently rung along their sides.

MORALS OF THE PEOPLE.

traveiling), as the roads frequently rung along their sides.

MORALS OF THE PEOPLE.

With all this want of energy there is, however, little or no vice—crime, there is actually none. The law is scarcely ever put in force, except against some military offender, and the civil authorities have scarcely any chance of testing with the minitary which of the two have jurisdiction, though it is universally conceded that the civil authorities have not much to say in matters relating to the breach of the peace, criminal cases, &c. It cannot be denied that a military power rules, though by their constitution the government is essentially civil, only one clause gives the President ("during the present or any state of war") power to pass decrees, and makes him responsible to no one. Everything, however, is conducted with tranquilly and the people are perfectly satisfied, and in their love for the chief magistrate lose sight of the power which can curtail their liberues at any time. They obey the educts with an alactive I have never winessed, and with a cheerialness not to be met with often, though it is frequently with the loss of ail their litten, though it is frequently with the loss of ail their litten,

can curtain their liberties at any time. They obey the chicks with an alacity I have never witnessed, and with a cheerininess not to be met with often, though it is frequently with the loss of all their little property.

HISTORY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

The present Dominican republic was a Spanish colony until 1795, where by the treaty of Basie, the whole island was united under French rule. When after terrible struggles, the colored population of the instant had become independent of France, the tyranny of bessalines drove the Dominicans back into the arms of Spain, which thus regamed possession of its former colony in 1898.

INDEPENDENCE AND FIRST PRESIDENT.

The next year the Dominicans declared their independence, abolished slavery and remained in an unsettled state until 1822, when the whole island was united under a republican form of government, and Moyor, the President of Hayti, was chosen Fresident for life. But in 1844, the negroes of Hayti having suc-

ceeded in cicvating General Riviere to the Presidency, the Dominicans, encouraged by the friendly assurances of the French Consul General Moges, again formed a separate government (February 27) under the auspices of the "liberator" Pedro Rantans, who defeated Riviere near Santiago (April 9), thus securing the independence of his country. Recognized by France, a treaty of friendship and commerce with which Power was concluded October 22, 1848, and by Great Britain (treaty of amity, commerce and navigation concluded in May, 1850), the Dominican republic upheld her independence successfully against repeated efforts of Soulouque, the ruler of Hayti.

The Presidential term of Santana having ended in 1849 Jimenes was elected his successor. Though of Caucasian blood the latter secretly conspired with Soulouque, who invaded the territory of the republic at the head of 20,000 men and defeated the Dominicans in some skirmishes near Azua and Las Matas. In this extremity Santana was recalled by the perple. He dispersed the Hayten army April 22, near Savana Numero, so completely that the war for the time being was at an end. Jimenes sought a refuge with Soulouque, who made him one of his dukes, while Santana resigned his Dictatorship in favor of the newly elected constitutional President,

BUNAVENTURA BAEZ AND SANTANA'S BE-ELECTION.

In 1850 Soulouque once more invaded the country unsuccessfully. Baez having, during the latter part of his administration, favored the policy of the clerical party, was rejected by the people in 1863 and Santana resident President. He compelled the Archbishop to swear allegiance to the Constitution, and endeavored to free himself from French Influence. His sympathies with the United States in duced him to enter into negotiations with a secret diplomatic agent of President Pierce, General Casneau, the newly appointed Minister to St. Domingo, and to negotiate with him a treaty (October 5, 1854), the secret stipulations of which provided, it is believed, for the cession to the United States of the

republics, for they have ever remained distinct governments.

Santana's treason.

The rule of Santana, beginning in 1838, was neither long nor prosperous. He betrayed the republic soon after getting into power, and endeavored to transfer it back to the dominion of the mother country. Two or larse years were sampleyed in the concoction and maturing of this treason, when Spain invaded the island with a formidable force, but found the Dominicans united to oppose the invaders. The war, which begun in 1861, continued with varying success, characterized by several severe engagements and the almost total desolation of the republic, for two years, when it was ended by the defeat and withdrawal of the Spanish troops. The expulsion of the bpaniards was followed by many dissensions among the Dominicans, and the present government has been founded in much tribulation and dissatisfaction. Santana, after his treason, went to Spain and died there in disgrace. The war with Spain left General José Antonio Salcedo President of the republic; but he, appearing too anxious to make a treaty with Spain, the Dominicans got suspicious of him, and on October 10, 1864 a midnight caucus of ministers and a few citizens of Santiago deposed him and appointed the Vice President, Ulysses F. Espaillet, to succeed him. The people so far recognized this action as to demand by a popular manifestation the resignation of Salcedo; but repudiated Espaillet for General Gaspar Polanco, who was made President, and who immediately assumed that dignity. It was not long, however, before Polance was repudiated.

BAEZ'S KLEVATION TO THE PRESIDENCY A SECOND TIME.

A national convention, called by him met on the 27th of February, 1865, and elected a legal government, composed of General Pedro A. Pimentel as President; General Benizono F. de Rosas, Vice President; P. G. Martinez, Secretary of the Interior; General José Del C. Reinoso, Secretary of the Interior; General Vicente Moral, Secretary of the Interior of Pinance and Commerce. This government iasted but a few months. On August 4, 1865, a popular manifestation of the cidizens of Santiago resulted in the repudiation of Pinance and his compatitots in favor of General Jose Maria Cabral, Who was named Protector of the republic, and who at once became, but for a short time only, Dictator. He in turn was deposed before the County became fairly settled. General Pedro Guillermo on November 16 entered the Constitutional Assembly, deposed Cabral, procialmed universal suffrage to be henceforth a part and parcel of the constitution of the republic, and immediately announced himself acting Prosident until a regularly elected Fresident could be chosen. General Raez, who had been living in exite in France, was then on his way to St. Domingo to give in his adherence to the new government of Cabral, and had arrived at the island of Curacoa. The Constitutional Assembly immediately elected him President and a deputation was despatched to Curacoa to invite his acceptance, the did so, and repairing to St. Domingo city, found the whole country, with the exceptance the inlave, who had been an unsuccessful rebet in the sister republic of Hayti, was soon suppressed. Cabral, Serrano, Pimental and the other principal men of St. Domingo have given in their support to his government, and with the recog A national convention, called by him met on the

coded that his future official course will meet with every encouragement.

GOVENNMENT, RELIGION, &C.

Politically the republic is divided into five provinces, viz.:—Azua de Compostello, St. Domingo, Santa Cruz del Seybe, Concepcion de la Vega, Santiago de los Caballeros. These are also the names of the provincial capitals, of which Santiago de los Caballeros is, next to the city of St. Domingo, the most important. The innabitants are Roman Catholics, An archbishop resides at the city of St. Domingo. The seal of State represents a cross supporting an open Bible, surrounded by arms and the motto Dios, Patria y Livertad. The language of the people is Spanish. The constitution, like that of most spanish-American republics, is modelled after that of the United States, it provides for a president, to be elected for the term of four years, a senate of five and a house of representatives of fiteen members. The municipalities lics, is modeliced after that of the United States. It provides for a president, to be elected for the term of four years, a senate of five and a house of representatives of fitten members. The municipalities into which the provinces are sub-divided are organised on the basis of self-government. The conditions upon which foreigners may be naturalized are very liberal, and no distinction is drawn in favor of colored persons. Pres farms, farming utensits and provisions for six months are offered to settlers. The commerce of the country is as wet limited, owing partly to the deranged state of the circulation and exchanges. The exports from this republic into the United States, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1858, amounted to \$109,379, and the imports from the United States to \$112,427. The coins are gourdes (plastres, dollars), half gourdes, gourdins (quarters), escalins (eighths) and half escalins (sixteentus).

The military force of the republic is nominally \$,000 men. This includes the militia, which is liable to be called into active service whenever occasion demands. The effective force does not in reality exceed 5,000 men, and not more than half of that number are regularly on the roils for rations and duty. The marine consists of the coast guard schooners and a let launches.

REVENUES.

It is stated on good authority that the revenues from the two principal custom houses—those of \$1. Domingo and Puerto Plata—would be more than sufficient to cover the modest expenses of this unprotending government were not the anti-American sympathies of the surrounding islands—all of them European colonies—constantly formenting difficulties that lead to extra outlays, and these intrigues more than else have forced President Baez to borrow money in England.

SAMAN BAY.

Some months ago General Baecock, of the President's staff, and Senator Cole. of Californis, were

sent by the United States government on a secret mission to St. Domingo, the object and result of which have not yet been officially announced, but will doubtless be laid and announced, but will doubtless be laid and yet announced, but will doubtless be laid and yet announced, but will doubtless be laid and yet announced, but will doubtless be laid to the portheast corner of the bisned of Haytl, and now a portion of the Dominican republic has been acquired, and, the senate of the United States approving, will shortly be ceded to the Union. Further than this, we have semi-official evidence that the annexation of the entire republic of St. Domingo was a mooted question between the commissioners sent by our government and the Dominican government; for in a letter to the London Times by Mr. Edward H. Hartmount, the Consul General of St. Domingo, in Great Britain, written for the purpose of correcting some blunders of an American correspondent of that journal, he remarks that he has "good reason to believe" that the negotiations which were held in the city of St. Domingo and the annexation of the whole republic to the United States, and not only the purchase of Samana, in view." This intelligence was of sumicent importance to induce the London Times to comment upon it on the day after its appearance in a leading article, in which it remarked that in the vent of the cossion of the current portion of Propaget to discern that the old French portion of Propaget of discern that the old French portion of Propaget of discern that the cold French portion of Propaget of discern that the current of the same lot, so that the successive reports about the Bay of Samana, the republic of St. Domingo and the Island of Hayti may all be regarded as more or less true:" and it viewed the prospect of such a nanexation as "favorable to all concerned, and full of promise to the world all arge;" and it concluded by staing that in the acquisition "the Americans stand to lose but little and to gain a great deal. If half what is told of the r

ENGLISH AND FRENCH OPINIONS OF SAMANA.

It is somewhat remarkable that shortly before General McCleilan selected Samana as a suitable naval station Sir R. Schomburgk, who was then British Consul at St. Domingo, had forwarded to his government a communication descriptive of the same spot, and pointing out its importance as a piace for the erection of an arsenal and naval depoin in this paper, which was communicated by the British Foreign Office to the Royal Geograpical Society of London, and was published in its Journal for 1853, Sir R. Schomburgk concludes with these remarks:

Mexico, and lying, moreover, about due northeast of the great istimus which now so powerfully attracts the attention of the world, the French author, just quoted, may well call it "at tee dupmen" to the highway from the Attantic to the Pacific.

These English and French opinions are important, inasmuch as they define the value which practical and far-seeing men place upon our new acquisition, a value which must be very much enhanced when the Isthmus of Darlen is pierced and opens a channel for the commerce of the world from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean, which will become the highway from Europe and the Atlantic States to Australia and the Pacific Coast of South America.

INCIDENTS IN THE HISTORY OF SAMANA.

Historically speaking, Samana is a place of no little interest. It was visited by Columbus on his first voyage of discovery, toward the close of the fitteenth century, and 230 years later it became, from its detensive position, the rendezvous of a band of buccaneers. We will narrate both these incidents, as the first shows the antiquity of its discovery, while the second proves i 8 great natural advantages as a naval sport, while both may be useful to Mr. Summer to introduce into his address to the Senate when the ratification of the purchase comes before that body.

When Columbus was returning to Spain, after his first discovery of the New World, he passed, on the 12th of January, 1493, a high and beautiful headland, to which he gave the name of Cao del Enamorado, or the Lover's Cape (at present called Cape Cabron; and further eastward observed another which he named Cabo San Feramo (at present known as tape Samana), the most eastern point of the peninsuls of the same name; and doubling his headland he saw before him a fine gulf of such an extent that he supposed it to be an arm of the Sea separating Hispaniola from some other land. Here he anchored, and having sent his boats ashore, they found the natives with real subsequence of a ferocious aspect and were paniled hide onely in various colors. S

commercial circles. Wall street was full of the subject yesterday, and among the business men of Beaver, Water, Pearl, Front William and other down town streets the new acquisition was variously discussed in reference to its commercial value. It is easy to conclude that much of the interest manifested in this latest investment is owing to the undiguised belief that the whole island will in a few short years become part of these United States and take its place among the richest and myst favored in the sisterhood. The slice, however, of which Uncle Sam has already received a fifty years' lease is of no small importance, and those who are best calculated to frame a prophetic opinion in the matter have no hesitation in saying that an active, stirring American town will spring up on the shores of Samana Bay in a year or two. The adaptability of the climate to grow the products of both temperate and tronical zones, and the immense undeveloped field of labor and enterprise awaiting with bounteous guerdon the energy and capital of Americans, will not pass unnoticed and unappreciated by the wide-awake business community of this city. Of all the West India islands none can claim such rare and rich gifts of nature as St. Domingo; but, like Italy, Spain and other favored portions of creation, where Providence is most lavish of her treasures man is least worthy of them. Already a Bank of Samana is started, to go into operation very shortly. Preparations are under way to form lumber companies for cutting down and exporting the famous manogany and rosewood that fill the forests around the bay of Samana. The coal and cepper mines are to be worked with skill and capital, and industries of various kinds introduced. As a resort for invalids in the winter of our climate all opinions agree in pronouncing toe ur of the Samana peninsula the mildest and most genial in tropical latitudes.

THE ST. DOMINGO LOAN.

Particulars of the Contract-How It is to Met-Views of Parties Concerning It.
A flysheet containing an exposition and a condem

ernment of St. Domingo has been extensively circulated in St. Domingo city and other towns of the republic. A liberal translation of this document fol-

In the English papers contain an account of the negotiation of a loan between this republic and British bankers of the nominal value of £757,700 sterling, ou the following basis:

— Seventy pounds per cent discount.

Six per cent annual interest for the capital.

Four per cent for the liquidation of the loan.

The whole is to be paid in twenty-five years, guarantees upon which this loan is raised are these:—The hypothecation of the entries of certain custom houses and the exportation does of the guano of Alta Veis, the coal mines and malogany of Samana and the other mines of the republic. The condition is that the loan shall be applied to the construction of railroads and the improvement of the highways (carreteras) generally. It is intended in this document to point out the impracticability of this negotiation.

cent. 218,217

For sinking fund, four per cent 145,478

For commission, four per cent 146,478

Acc. 146,478

years \$2,402,400, representing a difference of \$5,765,440, which, with the premium of \$2,545,872, makes the sum of \$5,311,112, the ultimate result to the borrower.

Or, take another view:—For the sum of \$581,913, which the republic will receive (without including the charges already mentioned), we shall become liable for \$9,402,400, which will make a difference of \$5,820,486. This difference is the dreadful sacrifice imposed on the country.

Now, how shall this sum, costing \$9,402,400, be the vested so as to yield an interest, at least, equal to the annual exigencies? Can we pay with this the domestic debt of the republic, which amounts to more than a million? No. Even if we employ this fund as proposed in the prospectus of the loan in the construction of railroads and a highway from St. Domingo city to the province of Closo, it will require more than double the amount indicated. Will this serve to develop an industry which does not exist? Will it tend to increase agricultural pursuits which are as yet purely imaginary? We say the least part of it will be consumed in the improvement of the South; the larrest bortion in paying the Jesurun debt; and the rest—Oh, the rest: The admission of such a loan is only possible to a government that has treason as its object.

Who will detend the monstrous negotiation we have examined—for some, no doubt, a benediction from heaver; it the country the greatest calismity? This loan will increasite the excessive increase of the existing import duties and the creation of new ones. It will be the last addition to the ourden of the landed proprietors. It will make it difficult to live, for we shall have to pay for the very air we ones. It will be the last addition to the ourden of the estimates. How, then, can we raise the important sum of \$303,405 every year without scandalously altering the present import rates and creating fresh duties? To raise this sum the poor man will have to pay more for nis bread, for his clothing; in short, living will become more costly to all, how much

share imbaned upon the homomonical povernance. It is a special content of the previous of the previous and t